

South Carolina

YOUNG FARMER FUTURE FARMER

Magazine

VOL. 35, NO. 3

25 Cents

WINTER 1985



S.C. FFA Delegation to 58th National FFA Convention



Official Publication
Of The Young Farmers
And Future Farmers
Of South Carolina



South Carolina

YOUNG FARMER FUTURE FARMER

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine (ISSN 0038-3201) is published quarterly by the South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine Association, 922 Rutledge Building, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Subscription price is \$25 per year for members and \$50 per year for non-members.

Second class postage paid at Columbia, S.C. and additional mailing offices.

WINTER 1985 VOL.35 NO.3

(ISSN: 0038-3201)

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO
Publication and Editorial Offices
922 Rutledge Building
Columbia, SC 29201

General Manager.....Hugh P. McClimon
Editor.....Wilbur McCartha



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To Young Farmers

by Tommy Gladden

The 38th annual convention of the South Carolina Young Farmers will be held January 17-18 at the Marriott Hotel in Columbia. This year's convention promises to be an enjoyable experience as well as an educational experience for all members, spouses and guests.

Delegates and spouses should arrive by 1:30 p.m. January 17 to attend the general session and the Ladies Program. Following the business session, presentations will be made on "Livestock Management" by Robert Vaughan and Dr. Henry Webster of the Clemson Extension Service and "Forest Management Services" by Rhett Bickley of the S.C. State Forestry Commission. The Ladies Program will be highlighted by a presentation by Dabney Roberts of Beauty

For All Seasons.

The awards banquet at 7:00 p.m. January 17 will feature recognition of district and state winners in the contests and awards program. Scott McKain, past National FFA Secretary, will be the keynote speaker. Scott is a dynamic speaker who can entertain and amuse any group. Additional awards will be presented during the breakfast session at 8:30 a.m.

Throughout the convention many of our sponsors will have exhibits set up for viewing and discussion. Members planning to attend should contact their advisor or chapter president for more information about making reservations and securing tickets, which must be ordered in advance. Looking forward to seeing you there.

TO FUTURE FARMERS

by J. Earl Frick, Jr.

The 58th National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, November 13-16, was the highlight of the year for the 115 FFA members and advisors representing South Carolina. The program participants inspired and motivated the nearly 22,000 FFA members who attended to go back home and make their world a better place to live. Feelings of patriotism and love for our country's freedoms ran throughout the convention sessions, and the sea of blue and gold FFA jackets worn by members from every state helped all to realize that we are truly citizens of the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America. Congratulations to the chapters, members, and advisors who received special recognition for their achievements during the past year. Many of

these individuals are featured in this issue of the magazine.

National FFA Week will be observed and celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday - February 15-22, 1986. Your chapter will soon be receiving information concerning promotional items and public relations suggestions for your use to help gain public awareness for vocational agriculture and the FFA. The 1986 theme is "FFA - Leaders for the New Fields of Agriculture." Please join with other FFA members in the nationwide educational public relations campaign to help educate the American public about the scope of agriculture and the variety of agricultural careers available.

Cover Photo:

More than 100 South Carolina Future Farmers and FFA Advisors attended the 58th National FFA Convention November 14-16 in Kansas City, Mo. Cover photograph shows many of those in attendance at the convention.

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S.C. Future Farmers Share National Honors



American Farmer degree recipients shown above include, left to right, Deborah Cribb of Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter, Michael Crim of Pelion, Thomas Larrimore of Brittons Neck, Brana Williams of Brittons Neck, and Thad Williams of Brittons Neck Chapter. Those receiving this national honor, not shown, included James Hill of Abbeville, and Becky Shelby of Dorman Chapter.

South Carolina Future Farmers attending the National FFA Convention shared in top national honors during Convention activities.

Dr. Arthur K. Jensen of Clemson was awarded the honorary American Farmer degree in recognition of his leadership and support of vocational agriculture and FFA activities. Doctor Jensen, now retired, has taught vocational agriculture, and served as first director of the vocational media center. The degree was bestowed on Doctor Jensen in recognition of his exceptional service to youth, agricultural education, and the FFA organization.

The National FFA VIP citation was presented to Frank R. Stover of Pelion. Mr. Stover, a former agriculture teacher, served as South Carolina State Supervisor of agricultural education for 15 years. He was one of five to receive this award at the convention. Mr. Stover also served on the National FFA Board of Directors, and was awarded the honorary American Farmer degree in 1971.

Other national honors presented to South Carolina Future Farmers during the convention, follow:

National Chapter Awards, Dorman FFA Chapter, Spartanburg, Silver emblem; Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter, Georgetown,

bronze emblem; and Loris FFA Chapter, Horry County, bronze emblem.

Building Our American Communities (BOAC) awards: Mullins FFA Chapter, gold emblem; and Hemingway FFA Chapter, bronze emblem. David Richardson of Mullins, was individual winner in the BOAC contest.

National Chapter Safety Award Winners: Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter, bronze, and Dorman FFA Chapter, bronze.

Highlights of the convention included the presentation of American Farmer degrees to eight members of the SCFFA. Recipients included Deborah Cribb of Hemingway, Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter; Michael Crim of Lexington, Pelion FFA Chapter; James Hill of Abbeville FFA Chapter; and Thomas Larrimore of Gresham, Britton's Neck FFA Chapter.

Also Becky Shelby of Roebuck, Paul M. Dorman FFA Chapter; Timmy Todd of Loris FFA Chapter; Brana Williams of Hemingway, Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter; and Thad Williams of Gresham, Britton's Neck FFA Chapter.

American Farmer degrees are presented in recognition of achievement in agriculture and leadership, according to Hugh McClimon, state supervisor for vocational agriculture education.

NATIONAL FFA World's Largest Youth Convention

By Wilbur McCartha

It has been 15 or more years since I attended a National FFA Convention. How things have changed! Not every thing, but it took awhile to rub my eyes of recollection to get a playback of comparatives from previous years.

Some major things that have not changed included:

The Blue Jackets. Wow! Thousands upon thousands of them. There were probably 12,000 more Blue Jackets in Kansas City for this Convention than I saw when I was there 15 years ago. Kansas City was bluer than ever during a National FFA Convention.

The youthful enthusiasm. It surged through the auditorium, and reverberated into the concourses around the huge Kansas City municipal auditorium.

A super atmosphere of enthusiasm and anticipation.

National FFA Officers. Highly proficient, skilled, professional in conducting convention activities.

The spirited National FFA Chorus and Band, and motivational speakers. All could fire the most dormant person into action if there were a spark left within that could be awakened.

Let's take a look at some of the impressions and activities at this convention.

A NATIONWIDE CLASSROOM

The recent 58th annual Convention of the National Future Farmers of America in the huge municipal auditorium of Kansas City, Mo. underscores the status of this auditorium as a nationwide classroom where thousands of farm youth have been inspired and motivated to higher attainment in school as well as in their endeavors for successful careers.

South Carolina farm youth have shared in this enriching experience-----thousands of them for more than 50 years who have come for the annual National FFA Convention.

More than 22,000 Future Farmers from across the nation attended the recent convention, described as "The World's Greatest Youth Convention." The opening session got underway with a dramatic impact on those attending.

On entering the auditorium, I stood in awe at the large entrance way to the arena from the huge concourse that surrounds each level of the auditorium. I looked across the packed audience---a full arena of farm youth in blue jackets---Blue and Gold, the official dress. The arena was full. Each of the three balconies was packed.



Members of the Pendleton FFA Chapter Floriculture team represented SCFFA in the National Floriculture Contest. They include, left to right, Andrew Gaylord, Richard Helmly, Al Grady, team advisor, and Buddy Landreth.



Dorman FFA Chapter was presented the Silver Emblem Chapter award. Chapter representatives shown above include Colleen Lancaster, Elizabeth Pitts, and Mike Utter.



Three members of the Loris Chapter which was presented the Bronze emblem award included Randall Cox, Melissa Tyler, and Barry Todd.

To my right was a vast stage that stretched all the way across the front of the auditorium. At the right of the stage was the more than 100 piece FFA Band.

Likewise, to the left of the stage was the National FFA Chorus, also made up of FFA participants from each state.

Center stage was the podium from which the proceedings of the convention were conducted by the National FFA Officers. All were in their late teens or early 20's, but as professional and poised as any adult who has walked across this stage.

High overhead hung a huge banner emblazoned with the words

FFA LEADERS FOR THE NEW FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE EXPLORE HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE

These three components, the chorus, the band, and the officers under the cooperation of the National FFA staff formed the basis for one of the most dramatic, enriching and educational experience anyone can have.

This enriching activity has contributed to the leadership and educational development, not only to untold thousands across the nation, but to South Carolina as well.

Onto this stage of the National FFA Convention have come U.S. Presidents, Congressmen, and national leaders from all walks of life to rap and speak with the FFA'ers at these annual assemblies. Convention speakers also have included movie stars, farm leaders, nationally known motivators, Gold medalists from the Olympics, agriculture leaders, and a host of others.

All have contributed to the catalyst that has sparked a flame of self discovery, and planted seeds of success that have led delegates to high levels of success, and even national prominence.

Former President Jimmy Carter especially comes to mind as a national leader who came through the FFA and vocational agricultural education in high school. In South Carolina, many current and past leaders have been Future Farmers.

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

The convention provides many growth opportunities for the thousands of farm boys and girls to learn and to put learning into practice when they return home.

At the recent convention, an array of top motivational speakers captured the spirited young audience with dynamic presentations on responsibilities, work, study, learning, courage, spiritual qualities and character development.



Frank R. Stover, state supervisor of agricultural education for 15 years, now retired, was presented the National FFA VIP Citation. Mr. Stover was one of five in the nation to receive this award.

And the audience loved it. These presentations punctuated by performances from the National FFA Band and Chorus were received with spontaneous standing ovations and dynamic cheering.

Convention speakers included Kansas City Mayor Richard L. Berkley; John Wu, assistant secretary of the office of vocational and adult education, U.S. Department of Education; Zig Ziglar, nationally known motivational speaker sponsored by the American Bankers Association; Bart Conner, 1985 Olympic Gold Medalist; Willard Scott of NBC Today Show who did his morning broadcast from Kansas City; John Block, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; Denis Waitley, motivational speaker and author; Rocky Bieler, former Pittsburgh Steeler football



Dr. Arthur K. Jensen of Clemson, was awarded the Honorary American Farmer degree in recognition of his exceptional service to youth, agricultural education, and the FFA organization. Mrs. Jensen attended the convention with Dr. Jensen.



Seven members of the Saluda FFA Chapter who served on the National FFA Courtesy Corps at the convention include, left to right, Randall Porter, Charles Anderson, Wayne Anderson, Mike Arrington, Lee Miller, Earl Gentry, Teresa Hurt, and John Crawford, chapter advisor.

player, and several executives from business and industry also were speakers on the program.

Bringing special challenges and valuable information to the youth were the National FFA Officers whose presentations were highlights of the conference.

South Carolina Future Farmers shared in the awards and recognition during the convention. Recipients of the several awards are listed in a separate article.

"The future lies with the winners who have no time to loose," Mr. Waitley told a cheering audience. Mr. Waitley who has trained astronauts, and Olympic Gold Medalists to prepare them for high performance, emphasized that "winners are busy doing within when doing without. Losers dwell on failure.....winners dwell on winning and work toward attaining the objective of winning. The future of farming is in the FFA's who are at this convention," he continued.

"The skills you learn in FFA will serve as a broad base of knowledge and skills for your future," Secretary of Agriculture, John Block emphasized.



Members of the SCFFA Livestock Judging team from Saluda who participated in National FFA Livestock Judging included Michelle Hurt, Robert Crouch, Randall Porter, Mike Arrington, and Raymond Slighe, team advisor and agriculture teacher.



Official delegates included, Dan Poston of Brittons Neck FFA Chapter, State FFA President; and Michelle Miller of Pleasant Hill Chapter, SCFFA vice president.

"Learning significant things at an early age and setting large but realistic goals is very important," Mr. Conner told the audience. "Smaller goals also must be set so success can be reached along the way.

"Young people need to understand that dreams can come true if they stay with it," he continued. He urged young people to set goals at a young age, and advance to more significant progress. "You can become more effective leaders. You must believe in yourself to advance or reach your goals," he said.

Many of the South Carolina Future Farmers returned home with more incentives, a vibrant enthusiasm and a determination to do better work in school. They definitely were impressed, Colleen Lancaster of Dorman observed. "I didn't realize there was so much talent," she said in referring to the FFA Chorus and band members, and youthful speakers.

Don Poston, official delegate and State FFA President, liked the opportunities for an involvement the convention offers.....involvement in activities at the convention level with other students from throughout the nation.

Michelle Miller, State FFA Vice President, said it was an experience "I'll never forget."

Billy Stroud of Clover, State FFA Vice President, said that "We come closer together as a family, as a state and as a nation."

"Not only closer, but bigger family nationally," Steven McGaha of Belton, Honea Path, added.

Earl Frick, agricultural education consultant of Florence, said "it makes you feel a part of America when you are in contact with Future Farmers and teachers from Florida, Texas and other states. When you are at home, you see only your own area," he continued.

The first National FFA Convention was initiated in 1926 when the American Royal invited Future Farmers of America to compete in Livestock Judging Contests in Kansas City, Mo.

Since then these conventions have become a mountain top experience in education, motivation, spiritual inspiration, leadership and personal development.

This year the more than 20,000 Future Farmers attending this convention won't be the same again after rubbing shoulders with FFA's from across the nation and acquiring dynamic learning experiences beyond the classroom.

SCFFA Week

Nearly 7,000 South Carolina Future Farmers will join with 430,000 FFA members throughout the United States in celebrating National FFA Week February 15-22.

"Leaders for the New Fields of Agriculture," the theme for vocational agriculture education and the FFA for this year will be especially emphasized during National FFA Week. Hugh McClimon, state supervisor for vocational agricultural education, said. Future Farmers throughout the nation will be stressing this theme in activities planned during National FFA Week.

The new FFA theme emphasizes that agriculture is changing, and that it is more than farming. Computers, bio-genetics, economics and aquaculture are just a few of the 200 career areas in agriculture. High school agriculture and the FFA organization are teaching the youth of the city and the country skills that will prepare them to be the leaders for this diverse agricultural industry.

FFA Week traditionally includes George Washington's birthday. Future Farmers respect George Washington for his great leadership skills and innovative practices in agriculture.



Mullins FFA Chapter won the Gold Emblem Chapter award in recognition of its Building Our American Communities Achievements. Those contributing to attaining this outstanding chapter award include Keith Moore, Jimmy Bell, chapter advisor, Jimmy Sawyer, Kenneth Thompkins, and Darrell Marlowe.

FFA has been promoting leadership, cooperation and citizenship among young people since 1928. With the changing roles of agriculture, the organization realizes the importance of continuing the emphasis of developing agricultural skills and in building leaders for the New Fields of Agriculture, Mr. McClimon continued.



The Farm Business Management team from Brittons Neck FFA Chapter who competed in the Farm Business Management contest during the National FFA Convention included left to right, Dan Poston, James Cannon, Micheal Turbeville and Jerry Pace, advisor.



Members of the SCFFA National Agricultural Mechanics Team from Saluda FFA Chapter included, left to right, Russ Miller, Wayne Anderson, Charles Anderson, Hardee Horne, alternate; and Dan Henderson, advisor.

AG Teacher Awards

The annual awards banquet for South Carolina teachers of vocational agriculture featured presentation of service awards to 10 agriculture teachers. The banquet was held at the close of the annual agriculture teachers conference last June at Seawell's Restaurant at the State Fair Grounds.

Top honors went to P.C. Evans of Hartsville, who has taught vocational agricultural education for the past 40 years. Runner-ups in length of service included L.V. Walker of Piedmont, Anderson Cooper of Inman, and W.W. Weldon of Florence vocational center, each of whom received 30-year plaques.

Other service awards follow:

Ten Year Keys: Leonard Caughman of Oswego and Al Jeffords of Lamar High School.

Twenty-Year Keys: William H. Ray of Neeses.

Teachers who retired this year included Charles Gilmore, Jr. of Seneca; W.W. Weldon of Florence; and Samuel Cooper of Cross.

Service awards were sponsored by the Federal Land Bank of Columbia.



Agriculture teachers receiving 30-year service awards include, left to right, W.W. Weldon of Florence Area Vocational Center; L.V. Walker of Wren High School in Anderson County; and Anderson Cooper of Chapman.



A 10 year key went to Al Jeffords of Lamar, left, and William H. Ray of Hunter-Kinard Tyler, received his 20 year certificate of Distinguished Service.

Career Brochure

--There are over 200 challenging and rewarding careers in agriculture according to a new National FFA Organization brochure. FFA's new agricultural career brochure was introduced at the National Agricultural Career Show held in conjunction with the 58th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

The new eight page color brochure supports FFA's new 1986 public service announcements (PSAs) in educating the American public on the wide variety of agricultural careers available.

"Agriculture is becoming more and more technical--requiring brighter and brighter people," according to Jim Robertson, director of Marketing Communications, Monsanto Agricultural Products Company, FFA's sponsor of the brochure and PSAs.

"We're helping FFA to broaden the public's image of American agricultural careers, attract student attention to high school agriculture, as well as promote the excellent leadership training FFA provides young people today," he added.

Boost FFA Week
February 15-22, 1986
Plan Chapter FFA Activities Now



The new teachers of vocational agriculture received a hearty welcome during the conference. They include, left to right, Kenneth Chapman of Laurens District 55; Ernest Manning of Fairfield Area Vocational Center; Darrell Ricketts of Green Sea-Floyds; William Keels of Hillcrest High School in Sumter County; Willie Capehart of Bowman; and Michael Haynes of Manning.



James Weitholder, Winner of Illinois FFA Beef Proficiency Award.

As young farmers continue their education, MoorMan's continues to encourage them.

Learning is important for everyone involved in agriculture. So at MoorMan's, we're constantly investing in education. Whether that means helping our 2,500 MoorMan Representatives keep up to date on livestock nutrition and management. Or supporting rural youth by contributing to organizations and providing scholarships to agricultural students at Land-Grant universities.

Our financial contribution to FFA helps honor outstanding members at the chapter, state, regional and national levels.

Our contribution to 4-H helps honor outstanding members at county, state and national levels.

MoorMan's also sponsors agri-

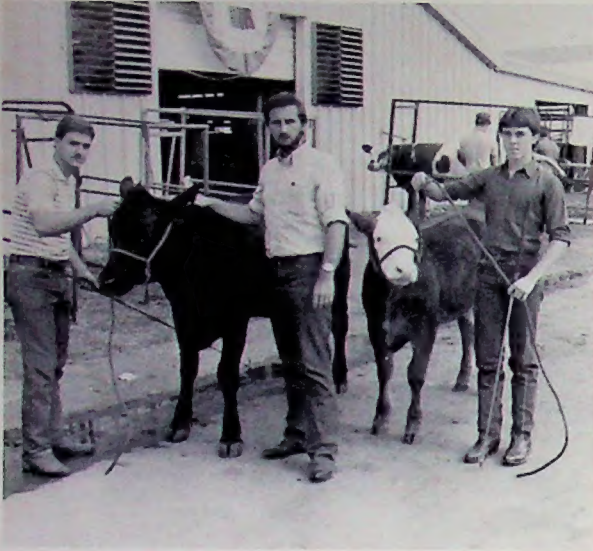
cultural scholarships at 30 Land-Grant universities. The amount contributed to each is the same; and the college scholarship committee determines the number, individual dollar amounts and recipients of the MoorMan Scholarships. The universities are:

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Colorado State University, Fort Collins
University of Florida, Gainesville
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University of Illinois, Urbana

Iowa State University, Ames
Kansas State University, Manhattan
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Ohio State University, Columbus
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Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
South Dakota State University, Brookings
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Texas A & M University, College Station
Texas Tech University, Lubbock
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wyoming, Laramie



South Carolina State Fair



Crescent Future Farmers Bryan Young left, and Chad Lawrence, right, are shown above with two of the animals they entered in the Junior Beef Cattle Division at the South Carolina State Fair last October. The Crescent FFA Chapter, under the leadership of Joe Price, agriculture teacher, center, competed in several livestock shows during the fall.



Pelion Future Farmers are shown above as they wait for show time in exhibiting their animals in the FFA Swine Show at the South Carolina State Fair. They include, left to right, Donald Sox, Randy Northcutt, Jeff Dial, Tony Rucker, Mitch Poole, and Mike Sox. The first place showmanship award in the Junior Swine Division went to Donald Sox while Tony Rucker, won second place showmanship.



Michael Powell and Bryan Clinkscales of Crescent FFA Chapter, are shown above grooming a polled Hereford for showing in the Junior Beef Cattle Show at the S.C. State Fair. Joe M. Price is their agriculture teacher.



Lydia McGill of Crescent FFA Chapter, won the first place showmanship award for shorthorns in the Junior Beef Cattle Show at the S.C. State Fair. Kim McMullan was second place showman. Lydia also had the grand champion shorthorn.

Sumter Teacher of Year Challenges His Students

When Drefus Williams, vocational agriculture teacher at Furman High School in Sumter School District 2 entered the teaching profession 32 years ago, he and his colleagues thought "they could move mountains."

A selection committee that recently named Mr. Williams Sumter School District 2 Teacher of the Year apparently thinks he's moved a few.

"My desire has always been to teach rural youth," Mr. Williams said.

"My first principal in Sumter County, the late B.F. Robinson, influenced me most to adhere to my commitment to the teaching experience. He respected the knowledge and personal integrity of a teacher. He allowed them to practice their chosen profession.

A native of Sumter County, Mr. Williams was graduated from Lincoln High School, and South Carolina State College at Orangeburg. He joined the Furman faculty in 1972. His wife, Irene, also teaches at Furman. They have four daughters, three of whom are considering a teaching career.



Drefus Williams

The Williams farm, "Old Spain Ranch" in the Bethel-Tindal Community of Sumter County is the setting each year for the annual Future Farmers of America Farm Show and Petting Zoo for pre-school children of Sumter School Districts 17 and District 2. This event showcases classroom experiences and individual projects for the public.

Mr. Williams encourages students to actively participate in local, state, and national events. Each year, he accompanies one or more students to the State or National FFA Convention. "Vocational agriculture provides the basis for individual and community progress," he observed.

"Rural leadership and rural communities have to be improved," he added.

"Knowledge is power, and to waste your time while you are here at Furman is a sure thing that your loss can never be regained," he admonishes students at Furman High School, "So while you are in school, harvest your knowledge like a farmer harvests his prize crop."

"It's a sure thing that today's harvest will be tomorrow's food for your success in life," he continued.

Many of his students have attained state and National FFA awards in recognition of outstanding achievements in FFA activities and supervised agri-business programs.

His daughter Dre'nita and his student, Jeffrey Poole, attended the recent National FFA convention in Kansas City, Mo. Mr. Poole was awarded a plaque and a trip to the convention for placing first in the agricultural District 3 public speaking contest.

It is always interesting to observe the jubilant pride Mr. Williams radiates in the success of his students....a pride that is most difficult to subdue by a teacher who possesses a keen and subtle talent to inform others of a student's success.

Mr. Williams has been recognized at both local and state levels for his successes. He received the Distinguished Service Award in Agricultural Education in 1960, 1973, and 1983; and the Distinguished Service Award from The South Carolina Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

Statement of Ownership

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION		
1A. TITLE OF PUBLICATION	1B. PUBLICATION NO.	1C. DATE OF FILING
SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH FARMER AND FUTURE FARMER MAGAZINE	0 0 3 8 3 7 0 1	Sept. 26, 1985
2. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE	3A. NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY	3B. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
Quarterly	4	\$0.25 Members \$0.50 Nonmembers
4. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, P.O., or other acceptable mailing address)		
922 Rutledge Building, Columbia, Richland County SC 29201		
5. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER (if not same as above)		
Same as above		
6. FULL NAMES AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (The new list staff for 1985)		
PUBLISHER (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
S. C. Young Farmer & Future Farmer, 922 Rutledge Building, Columbia SC 29201		
EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Wilbur McCarthy, 611 "C" Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169		
MANAGING EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
N/A		
7. OWNER (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated. (Form must be completed.)		
FULL NAME		
SC Association of Young Farmers and		
SC Association of Future Farmers		
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS		
922 Rutledge Building		
Columbia, SC 29201		
8. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES (If none so state)		
FULL NAME		
NONE		
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS		
NONE		
9. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 402.7 of Internal Revenue Code)		
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS		
<input type="checkbox"/> HAS CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS		
(If changed, publication must submit explanation of change with this statement.)		
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION (Give approximate figures for each item.)		
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES (See Instructions)		
7000		
B. PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION		
1. Sales through dealers and carvers, street vendors and other sales		
N/A		
2. Mail Subscriptions (Paid and/or requested)		
6635		
C. TOTAL PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION (Sum of B1 and B2)		
6635		
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS (Samples, complimentary, and other free copies)		
170		
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D)		
6805		
F. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED		
1. Office use, left over, unsold, returned, spoiled after mailing		
125		
2. Return from News Agents		
N/A		
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and F2) (Should equal net press run shown on A.)		
7000		
H. ACTUAL NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE		
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